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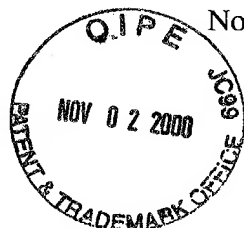
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November 2, 2000

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Attn: Art Unit 1631

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Continuation Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/613,903; Filed: July 11, 2000
For: **Nucleic Acid Ladders**
Inventor: Heather J. Jordan
Our Ref: 0942.4450001/RWE/BJD

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (in duplicate);
2. Six pages of Form PTO-1449 listing 35 documents cited in prior U.S. Application No. 08/892,884; and
3. One return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
November 2, 2000
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Brian J. Del Buono
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,473

BJD/nef
Enclosures

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of:

Jordan, H.J.

Appl. No. 09/613,903

Filed: July 11, 2000

For: **Nucleic Acid Ladders**



Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: To Be Assigned TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Atty. Docket: 0942.4450001/RWE/BJD

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. 08/892,884, filed July 15, 1997, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), Applicants' undersigned representative offers the following concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language publication, Doc No. AL1, cited on the accompanying Form PTO-1449:

Doc. No. AL1, Japan patent publication JP 63-113359, is in the Japanese language. The relevance of this document may be ascertained by reference to Doc. No. AR6, an unverified English language abstract for this document obtained from Derwent WPI.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that was cited or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No statement or fee is required.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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